

CITY OF KINGSTON

Office of the Mayor

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Steven T. Noble
Mayor



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mayor Steve Noble proposes plan for parking permits for frequent users of municipal lots for remainder of 2017

(Kingston, N.Y.) Mayor Noble is pleased to propose an amended plan to provide parking options for frequent users of the City's municipal lots. Frequent users, who are often residents or employees of local businesses, will have the opportunity to apply for a permit in early spring 2017, immediately prior to when kiosks are installed in the municipal lots. The annual permit will be sold for a modest \$10, which will cover the service charges required to prepare the permit.

"I strongly believe, and studies have demonstrated clearly, that 'free' parking is not actually free," said Mayor Noble. "Our current parking plan is unsustainable, with local taxpayers subsidizing the cost of parking, including the short term and long term maintenance of our parking infrastructure. My updated parking plan seeks to shift the burden of parking costs from taxpayers to users, while preventing an undue burden on our local residents and employees in business districts. Kiosks will still be installed in the City's municipal lots and individuals without a parking permit will be required to pay the hourly fee to park."

While there will be no residency requirement in 2017, all applicants for these permits will be required to provide their addresses. This will allow the City to further understand the parking needs of the frequent users of its municipal lots and to identify how many residents benefit from this permit. While the parking permit does not guarantee parking availability, it will allow frequent users to park for free, except for the \$10 service fee, if and when they park in the City's municipal lots

"Parking challenges may not be unique to small cities like ours, but our city can be unique in how it responds to its challenges," said Mayor Noble. "I have heard from our community members, evaluated their requests, and have incorporated some of these requests into what I am confident is a fiscally and socially responsible parking plan."

As part of the Mayor's changes in the City's parking policies, a workgroup comprised of City residents, employees, business owners, and Council members will be established in the coming weeks to further discuss the City's long term parking needs and to ensure all stakeholders are informed of and have the opportunity to weigh in on proposed changes before and during their implementation.

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